



Dubai Statistics Center

# Confidentiality, Dissemination and Revision Policy of Statistical Data

Emirate of Dubai



## Introduction

Official statistics is an essential element in modern societies is in the process of planning, development, research, and analysis. It effectively contributes to setting policies and decision-making in all sectors of development. As stated in the General Framework of the Charter of Quality of Statistical Data in the Emirate of Dubai which is approved at DSC, official statistics are the products that provide all beneficiaries, of various categories, with free data without discrimination among them and without giving priority to any of them. Therefore, official statistics should be provided in a clear, easy, and understandable way to everyone without the need for specialized experts in statistics. In addition, technological development and the general orientation of smart transition must be considered for the purpose of diversifying the means and channels for dissemination of statistics in the Emirate of Dubai on one hand. On the other hand, it is important to be in line with the professional and technological developments which ensures that official statistics are provided to all beneficiaries according to the international recommendations and standards, as well as the local, national, and regional the needs and requirements.

## Target Audience

The Policy, through various means available, targets all groups and segments of the local and international community. Complete, accurate, and updated statistical data is essential for policy-making, development of plans and programs, and decision-making to achieve sustainable development on solid, scientific, and clear foundations.

Therefore, the beneficiary and target groups of official statistical data in the Emirate of Dubai were categorized as follows:

- Specialized researchers and various research centers that use official statistics in the in-depth analysis process to produce broad analytical results that serve sustainable development.
- Students of universities, institutes and postgraduate studies whose research and studies are based on a scientific basis supported by the official results of statistics.
- School students of all stages, where statistical data are used in educational curricula in the form of maps, graphs, and tables to illustrate scientific and literary information, in addition to the students' use of these outputs in their research.
- Private sector organizations and investors benefit from official statistics to orient their investments in projects that help generate profits and build and support the Emirate's economy.
- Public sector organizations from federal ministries, local governmental and official entities and institutions, and decision makers in this sector use official statistics in the process of

making decisions, promoting development, improving the lives of community members, spreading happiness among them, and providing them with services that are sustainably developed.

- International organizations make their international comparisons, studies and research on the bases of official statistical data.
- The general public benefits from official statistics in its daily life, especially data on demographics, prices, living conditions, unemployment, and other indicators.
- Printed and audio-visual media use official statistics, highlight sensitive issues, and direct public opinion to serve the community.

### **Fundamental Principles of Statistical Dissemination Policy (SDP) in Dubai:**

The SDP of official statistics in the Emirate of Dubai is based on a set of professional principles and legal frameworks for the production and dissemination of statistics, as follows:

- **Law concerning the DSC:** Concerning the Dubai Statistics Center are the basis for management of the statistical system in the Emirate of Dubai, where it guarantees the judicial and legal capacity for management of the statistical work by the DSC in the Emirate.
- **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics:** These are the principles issued by the United Nations Statistical Commission which were approved in January, 2014, by the General Assembly, which confirms that this recognition at the highest political level signifies that official statistics -that are reliable and objective- are critical for decisions-making.

- **Charter of Quality of Statistical Data for the Emirate of Dubai:** This is the Charter of Data Quality issued by DSC, which aims at consolidating the principles of statistical work in Dubai to produce high-quality statistical data and to enhance the confidence of the various clients of the data issued by DSC.
- **Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM):** DSC, in all its different types of statistical projects, uses the “GSBPM” for statistical processes, which governs statistical work in eight sequential stages. Statistical dissemination is one of the key stages included in that Model.

### **General Directions of Statistical Dissemination Policy (SDP) in Dubai**

This Policy came out as a result of the United Nations recommendations issued by the Statistics Division in this area and identified in the Handbook of Statistical Organization, Third Edition, 2004, as well as the Key Principles of the Quality of the Statistical Data that focus on meeting the expectations and needs of users.

**DSC is committed to providing and making available all official statistics and various statistical products** in a way that meets the needs of users, as well as achieving the utmost benefits to enable efficient and comprehensive availability of all statistical outputs and in as much detail as possible, considering the Law Establishing the DSC with regard to the confidentiality and privacy of individual data.

**DSC is committed to providing accurate, coherent and comparable** statistical data in accordance with the Charter of Quality of Statistical Data for the Emirate of Dubai.

**DSC is committed to updating statistical data and providing it to users on a regular basis in a timely manner**, in order to be in line with international practices related to the periodic provision and dissemination of statistical data in this field, considering the balance between the appropriate timing and the quality of data at the time of their dissemination.

**DSC is committed to disseminating statistical data independently and professionally** and to make it available to all users in full equality.

**DSC is committed to making prior announcements about the dates for disseminating statistical data** and specifying them permanently in accordance with the approved statistical calendar and international practices in this field, along with the commitment to report any delay in the dates announced two weeks before the due date.

**DSC is committed to presenting statistical data in a clear and understandable manner** to all users.

DSC is committed to providing official statistics and making them available to all users **through various dissemination media free of charge**.

DSC is committed to disseminate all statistical data **combined with methodology and metadata** to avoid misunderstanding and misuse of the data.

**DSC shall not disseminate or block data (in whole/ in part) that do not match the standards of the Charter of Quality of Statistical Data issued by DSC.**

**DSC is committed to providing access to unidentified partial data through a window or through providing an office within the DSC for researchers and academics** for the purposes of conducting specialized studies that require access to partial data, considering the protection of confidentiality and privacy of the data in accordance with the technical conditions of the DSC's concerned administration.

**DSC is committed to disseminating periodic reviews and revisions that change the statistical outputs, if applicable, in accordance with the revision procedures described and approved below.**

**DSC is committed to measuring the level of users' happiness with statistical data and monitoring their needs,** so that they are considered while providing and disseminating statistical data.

**DSC is committed to stating the source of the disseminated data** in the event that it is disseminated as it is provided from the source, and this applies to all recorded data.

## Procedures for Data Review and Revision

Based on the DSC's keenness to achieve transparency, serve customers and gain their trust, it is necessary for all concerned parties in the Institutional Communication Department and technical departments to inform the customers of any changes to the disseminated data and all reasons and causes for such change. These reasons should be disseminated and users should be previously informed in order to achieve the utmost benefits of using the data and enhance customers' trust.

The DSC is committed to provide information to users about any changes to the disseminated data as a result of any of the following reasons:

1. Availability of better data than the data used in developing the disseminated statistical reports, in terms of full responsiveness and timeliness. For providing statistical data in a timely manner, estimates are developed based on partial data.
2. Availability of data from new sources that are more coherent and conforming to the statistical concepts and standards that are used better reflects the reality of statistical indicators.
3. Changes that occur as a result of recalculating due to seasonal changes or changing and updating the base year.
4. Changes that occur as a result of changes in the methodology or in the statistical methods, concepts, definitions and classifications used, and the changes that occur when time series are recalculated.



5. Emergency modifications as a result of errors that may occur in statistical operations, such as errors in processing, disseminating, or obtaining data from sources.

Reaffirming the necessity of informing users of the revisions made to the data, all concerned parties in the DSC must provide the following:

**First:** A summary table summarizing the periodicity and timing of the revisions made to the data and attaching it to the DSC's statistical calendar.

**Second:** Providing explanatory information about the causes and effects of revisions made to the disseminated data and making them accessible to the data users.

**Third:** In the case of modifications resulting from a change in methodology and concepts, the time series must be re-estimated, which would better serve the data users.

**Fourth:** Issuing a notice along with the disseminated data regarding the level of revision and the next revision date, if applicable.

**Fifth:** Providing explanations for the impact of the revisions on the data and its quality, and providing statistical measures on the effects and including them in the metadata.

### Confidentiality and Privacy Policy

Based on DSC establishment Law no. 28 of 2015, Article “9” on confidentiality of statistical data, and Article “16” on penalties, DSC is committed not to disclose personal and confidential information collected in the projects executed by DSC or through administrative records and

databases that are filled in by the statistical data sources.

This commitment to confidentiality of personal and individual information includes the following categories:

- DSC's staff, volunteers in statistical projects, contractors, and interns.
- Members of the joint committees of DSC and entities participating in statistical work.
- Any person or institution DSC gives the authority to use the information.

Relevant Definitions:

- **Personal Information:** Means information that relates to and identifies a particular person including any legal personality such as a company, organization, or family.
- **Confidential Information:** The information obtained by DSC from administrative sources for statistical purposes and it was conditioned by the source of data not to be disseminated in its initial, or if it has previously required a specific level of dissemination of the data at hand.

In order to protect the personal and confidential information, DSC follows all the actions described in this paper to prevent disclosure of personal and confidential information according to the following standards:

1. Not to disseminate or make available the data which identifies a person in any statements issued by DSC.
2. Not to disseminate or make available data can be used to identify the personal information or through which the personal and confidential information may be identified by linking

them to other information already disseminated, with the exception of:

- At the request of the competent judicial authorities;
- As permitted by local and federal law;
- Written permission from the person concerned.

These exceptions are made according to a decision of DSC leadership after being submitted along with the reasons and rationale for such disclosure.

### Dissemination Channels of Official Statistics

DSC is committed to keeping abreast of professional and technological developments in dissemination of official statistics and provision of statistics to the various categories of beneficiaries locally, nationally, and internationally. Thus, channels for dissemination of official statistics in Dubai were developed and, in return, traditional means of dissemination including paper publications and floppy disks are no more used, and now the focus is on digital publishing.

Current channels include:

**Statistical Indicators System of Dubai "Statistical Dashboards":** A global trend in disseminating statistical data using interactive visual techniques to enable users' access to data and results in a quick and attractive way away from the traditional methods. The use of these interactive visual technologies does not need a prior statistics knowledge or experience in reading statistics. Thus, it is possible to reach different categories of users, especially the society and students, in an interesting and appropriate way.

**Social Media:** Social media helps communicate with a large number of users and reach out to new users and beneficiaries in addition to maintaining existing users. Social media makes it easy for users to find facts and information quicker than the traditional methods of searching, access information, and allows rapid response to hot issues in society. Social media use helps boost the reputation of statistics and enhance the confidence of people and users in statistics. It is possible also to focus on statistical activities to highlight the social responsibility of DSC via these websites.

**DSC YouTube Channel:** A special channel for the DSC on YouTube, compiling all visual presentations on statistical activities and works from television interviews, films and statistical presentations. Moreover, specialized visual presentations are prepared and presented in one channel for easy access for data users in order to download videos related to the statistics of Dubai and sharing their links on social media for statistical, promotional, educational, awareness and informational purposes for the DSC.

**Interactive Tables and International Standards for Dissemination of Statistics:** Focusing on using international tools and standards in dissemination and documentation of statistics such as ESS. Using international standards helps disseminating data through interactive methods using interactive tables and visual techniques, and helps in the integration of statistical data and indicators at the domestic and international levels. It also allows data exchange at the international level. In addition, it allows giving authorities to users through a user name and password, each according to its mandate, and in accordance with DSC's policies on the dissemination of statistics.

**Interactive Statistical Map:** Displaying statistical data on the geographical map of the Emirate of Dubai in link with the available statistics is used in a flexible and interactive way that allows users to see the most important statistical data available at the geographical level.

**DSC's Website:** DSC has developed its website on the Internet due to the importance of this medium in the digital dissemination process and for being characterized with broad availability. Thus, enabling access to various levels and categories of beneficiaries. DSC's Website is the only official portal for official statistics in the Emirate of Dubai. It provides information in both Arabic and English and undergoes continuous development processes to enhance the volume of use and benefit.

**Smart Mobile Application:** Nowadays, most data users use smartphones and most institutions have their services (informational/transactional) on smartphones. Therefore, DSC provides all key indicators and statistical data once issued through smartphones application developed for official statistics, provided that the beneficiaries concerned with these statistics have to download this application from supported stores.

**Customers Care:** Customer Service section employee are highly capable of dealing with various categories of customers in sophisticated ways, and they have statistical expertise that enables them to provide the required data immediately or redirecting users to the Statistics Department concerned. They can also receive service requests and reply to them using several different means and in a transparent and quick manner. The Customer Service section in DSC is considered the official channel regarding the reception and responding to statistics requests.

**Statistical Releases:** DSC provides digital releases for those interested in key statistical, as the releases are provided with special covers for users interested in periodic statistical releases.

**Interactive Statistics System:** This system promotes the use of statistical data for various users, especially analyst and researchers, those interested in statistics, supported with the permission to access diverse data that serve different purposes in accordance with specific procedures and standards. DSC provides the data required according to standards that protect data confidentiality and privacy according to Law no. 28 for 2015 on the DSC. Many organizations and entities use the data provided which enables them to make policies and decisions based on solid and scientific foundations.

## Abbreviations

**DSC** – Dubai Statistics Center

**SDP** - Statistical Dissemination Policy

**GSBPM** - Generic Statistical Business Process Model